

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 098

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH PRESS REACTION TO AMBASSADOR-
DESIGNATE FLANIGAN

REF: MADRID 5692

1. MAJOR SPANISH DAILIES, THROUGH CORRESPONDENTS AND NEWS SERVICES IN NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON, HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING U.S. PRESS COVERAGE OF OPPOSITION BY SOME MEMBERS U.S. SENATE TO CONFIRMATION OF AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE FLANIGAN. TREATMENT HERE HAS GENERALLY AVOIDED SUBJECTIVE COMMENT.

2. NOTABLE EXCEPTION IS SEPT 27 EDITION OF "ARRIBA" WHICH PROVIDED LENGTHY TREATMENT BY NEW YORK CORRESPONDENT FERNANDO ORTEGA HEADLINED: "OPPOSITION TO FLANIGAN AS AMBASSADOR TO SPAIN- SENATE HAS POSTPONED SINE DIE CONFIRMATION HEARINGS." ARTICLE STATES SENATE PUT OFF HEARINGS WITHOUT EXPLANATION, BUT THAT IT IS KNOWN SENATOR FULBRIGHT OPPOSES NOMINATION "ENERGETICALLY" TOGETHER WITH VARIOUS OTHER SENATORS. ARTICLE STATES SENATOR EAGLETON CIRCULATED AMONG HIS COLLEAGUES ON COMMITTEE FIVE PAGE LETTER EXPLAINING SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT CONDUCT OF FLANIGAN IN PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION.

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3. SECOND PART OF ARTICLE ENTITLED "MR. FIXIT" REFERS
TO ALLEGATIONS CONCERNING FLANIGAN'S ROLE AS TROUBLE-
SHOOTER FOR PREVIOUS ADMINISTRATION. CITES SEVERAL
CASES OF HIS ALLEGEDLY QUESTIONABLE INVOLVEMENT IN
GOVT CONCESSIONS TO U.S. COMPANIES. ENDS WITH
ASSERTION THAT "FLANIGAN PLAYED VERY IMPORTANT ROLE IN
ACTIVITIES LEADING TOWARD IMPOSITION BY U.S. OF
COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ON SPANISH SHOES AND GREEN OLIVES
SOLD IN U.S."
RIVERO

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